Occupational Licensing Review

Ohio Department of Health Radon Licenses

July 17, 2025

Agency Questionnaire

1.Agency Name: Ohio Department of Health

2.Point of Contact – Lisa Griffin Chapa, Director of Government Affairs.

3.Describe the board's primary purpose, goals and objectives, and licenses issued.

Background: Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that comes from the soil. The gas can accumulate in the air we breathe. Exposure to radon over a long period of time can lead to lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. Your risk for lung cancer increases with higher levels of radon and longer periods of exposure. It is estimated that 21,000 people die each year in the United States from lung cancer due to radon exposure. For smokers, the risk of getting lung cancer from radon exposure is higher than for non-smokers. Reducing smoking and radon exposure greatly reduces the risk of lung cancer.

A radon test is the only way to know how much radon is in your home. Radon can be reduced with a mitigation system.

The Radon Licensing Program licenses parties directly involved with the radon testing and mitigation industry. ODH regulates contractors that install radon mitigation systems, mitigation specialists who design and supervise the installation of mitigation systems, radon testers, radon laboratories, and the companies that provide required radon training.

- Radon Tester
- Radon Mitigation Contractor
- Radon Mitigation Specialist
- Radon Training course
- Radon laboratory

4.Describe the board’s annual workload. How many staff are employed?

Radon Licensees in Ohio perform an average of 50,000 radon tests per year, with an average of 10,000 radon mitigation systems being installed throughout the state annually.

ODH processes 400+ individual license application annually, along with providing accreditation to training courses, and radon laboratories. The Program performs compliance inspections on these projects and training courses and performs records reviews of the documentation required related to radon mitigation and testing activities. The Program provides education and compliance assistance to its licensees on a regular and ongoing basis. ODH radon license staff also serve Ohioans by providing information and education on the health risks of radon in homes and buildings statewide. ODH has a "Hire a Professional" section on the ODH website that helps Ohioans find licensed radon testers and radon mitigation contractors in their area of the state.

- Staff: 2.3 FTE

5.How many new licenses does the board issue annually? How many renewed licenses are issued annually? How much does a new license cost? How much does a renewal cost?

The program issues 400+ licenses per year. Initial and renewal licenses have the same fees.

	Current Fee	Renewal Period
Radon Tester	$400	Biennial
Radon Mitigation Contractor	$800	Biennial
Radon Mitigation Specialist	$600	Biennial
Radon Training course	$600	Biennial
Radon laboratory	$600	Biennial

6.In the past 5 years, has there been any consideration to lower the licensure cost?

No, the fees are the same as when the program was created in 1992.

7.How much revenue is procured from the licensure fees? What does this revenue fund?

$193,000 - This funds a portion of the radon licensing program staffing and activities.

8.Are there any federal regulations, or regulations required to be met outside of the existing licensure requirements that have to be complied with? Does federal law require the board to be renewed in some form?

No.

9.Does the board issue an examination prior to licensure? Does the board issues continuing education courses? If so, how often is continuing education necessary? If the examination or continuing education requirements are done outside the board then what determines the selection of an outside organization to host it?

Examination is required for initial licensure ODH excepts exams provided by National Safety Radiation Board and the National Radon Proficiency Program. Continuing education is required to be completed during the two-year licensing period.

10.How many other states regulate the occupation or occupations under the board's jurisdiction? Is a license required to engage in that occupation or those occupations in other states?

Twenty-Five states have licensure or certification requirements, with twenty-nine states requiring disclosure of a radon hazard at the time of a real-estate transaction.

11.Has the operation of the board inhibited economic growth, reduced efficiency, or increased the cost of government?

No, the program protects public health and safety and serves to reduce lung cancer rates in Ohio.

12.Are there any licenses that are no longer issued by the board?

No.

13.Is there anything that the board would like to see changed or implemented in regards to occupational licensing within the scope of this legislative review?

Not at this time.

14.Has the board recommended statutory changes to the general assembly that would benefit the public as opposed to the persons regulated by the board, if any, and have those recommendations and other policies been adopted and implemented?

n/a.

15.Is the preservation of the board and the board's licenses necessary to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare?

Yes, education requirements, compliance assistance and regulatory enforcement all serve to protect public health and reduce the instances of lung cancer across Ohio.

16.Could the public be protected or served in an alternate or less restrictive manner? If applicable, please identify any licenses or functions of the board that could be eliminated or consolidated.

No, program activities reduce lung cancer incidences from radon throughout Ohio.

17.Any additional notes or comments the board believes the committee should be aware of?

No.